

MICHIGAN TRUCK SAFETY COMMISSION MTSC

Commission Meeting held at the
Michigan Center for Truck Safety - Lansing

(Approved)
March 21, 2007
Minutes

MTSC Commissioners Present

Jacqueline El-Sayed
Fred Bueter
Michael Prince
Timothy Kaltenbach
Robert Powers
Robert McFarland

MTSC Commissioners Excused

James Van Zoeren
David Zick
James Parrinello

Guests

None

Michigan Center for Truck Safety Staff

Mike Irwin
Chris Caswell

OHSP Staff

Deborah Sonnenberg
Kim Kelly
Steve Schreier
Pietro Semifero
Kathy Farnum

CALL TO ORDER

The MTSC meeting was called to order by Dr. El-Sayed, Chair. Roll Call of MTSC Commissioners was completed determining a quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MTSC MINUTES

Dr. El-Sayed called for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2007, meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Kaltenbach and seconded by Captain Powers. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Vincent Brennan – Departure from Commission - Dr. Jacqueline El-Sayed
Dr. El-Sayed received correspondence from the Michigan Transportation Commission (MTC) that their representative, Mr. Vincent Brennan, has resigned as a MTSC commissioner. The MTC will appointment a new MTSC representative at their next meeting held at the end of March.
- MSP Motor Carrier Division Name Change – Capt. Robert Powers
Captain Powers reported that the MSP is undergoing a major reorganization. A component of the reorganization was to merge the Traffic Services Section into the Motor Carrier Division and rename the division the “Traffic Safety Division.” This realignment brings the traffic safety functions of the department together coordinating activities and efforts in traffic safety. All of the staff telephone numbers remain the same; however, the telephones will now be answered identifying it as the Traffic Safety Division.
- Michigan Traffic Safety Summit – Mr. Mike Prince
Mr. Prince reported that the Michigan Traffic Safety Summit held March 13-15, had over 400 registered attendees. The Summit, expanded to three days this year, provided a broader spectrum of topics and workshops.

- Federal Highway Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Appointments – Capt. Robert Powers
Captain Powers announced that he and Mr. Mike Irwin have been appointed to the Federal Highway Transportation Safety Advisory Commission. The commission consists of 13 members selected from throughout the nation representing various agencies. Having two appointees from Michigan is extremely positive for the state. All commissioners agreed that a news release should be issued announcing these appointments. Mr. Prince will coordinate the issuing of the news release.
- Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) 2006 Annual Report – Mr. Mike Prince
A copy of the OHSP's 2006 Annual Report was distributed to all members. Mr. Prince stated the report provides an overview of the federally funded programs OHSP administers and the accomplishments attained in 2006.

ACTION ITEMS

- Request for Supplemental Funding for the Motor Carrier Division (MCD) – Capt. Robert Powers
At the January 10, 2007 meeting, Captain Powers requested the MCD grant be amended in two ways. Action on this request was tabled until this March meeting. At this meeting, Captain Powers was pleased to announce that he was withdrawing his request. The MCD's efforts to obtain funding were successful. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) approved MCD for an additional \$640,000 to conduct border enforcement. This allocation designates a lot of MCD's resources to be placed to the border areas; however, the MCD is shifting truck safety funding to cover enforcement efforts in the other parts of the state. He believes they will maintain their enforcement standards and data collection.
- Request for Motor Carrier Division (MCD) Truck Safety Grant Revision – Capt. Robert Powers
Captain Powers requested the commission's approval to redirect the holiday overtime money to be used for general STET operations. A motion to approve the MCD grant revision request was made by Mr. Bueter and seconded by Mr. Prince. A vote of the commissioners was taken with five approving and Captain Powers abstaining. Motion carried.

Captain Powers stated that once the UCRS program is up and running, the registration monies will begin to be collected. In response to Mr. Bueter's question on what would happen if the MCD receives a windfall of money at the end of the fiscal year, Captain Powers stated that all lapsed money is turned over to the MDOT Trunkline Fund for their use. Captain Powers also stated that if UCRS monies are received, they could be used for STET operations.

The FMCSA has submitted a motion to reinstate the SSRS program in 2008 if the UCRS program is not operational by then. Dr. El-Sayed stated she will make contact the FMCSA Vice-chair, Mr. David Hugo prior to each commission meeting to request a status report on the UCRS program.

REPORTS

- MTA Driver of the Year Interview Responses – Capt. Robert Powers
Captain Powers, Fred Bueter, and Mr. Tim Cotter of FMCSA were members of the interview panel to select the Michigan Trucking Association's 2006 Driver of the Year. Captain Powers provided an overview of the responses the 12 nominees provided to questions relating to truck safety.
- Michigan Center for Truck Safety (MCTS) Project Director's Report – Mr. Mike Irwin
Mike Irwin reported that the simulator was on display at the Truck Exposition & Safety Symposium and at the Traffic Safety Summit. At the Summit, the FMCSA Deputy Administrator and Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land experienced the simulator and remarked how impressive the equipment was. An officer from another state was very interested in the refresh rate of the unit and hopes his agency could upgrade their equipment to this level to enable it to be used more.

Awareness of the MCTS is increasing as marked by the MCTS Listserv participants now totaling over 500.

In July, the MCTS will reach its 10th Anniversary of operation and Mr. Irwin is hoping to mark the date with some sort of media event.

Mr. Irwin reported that the out-of-state participants utilizing the Michigan Center for Decision Driving have been increasing dramatically. He is monitoring the numbers closely to maintain a 70-30 ratio of Michigan vs. out-of-state drivers attending.

- **OHSP Financial Report** – Ms. Kim Kelly

Ms. Kelly reported that 60 percent of the SOS revenue has been received; however, only 30 percent of the expenditures have been reported to date. Ms. Kelly stated that this timeline is reflective of previous years and expressed the expenditures would catch up shortly and provide a more true financial picture.

Captain Powers commented that the Intrastate USDOT Number carrier program has a 20 percent grant match that the commission covers. MCD now has two full-time staff members working this program and spending the money aggressively to get the word out to carriers. Although not a new program, it has not been enforced. Captain stated that MSP is being more lenient in ticket writing until the public is more aware of the requirement; however, local enforcement agencies are issuing tickets.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair, Dr. El-Sayed, at 10:20 a.m.

**Next meeting will be held at 9 a.m. on May 9, 2007,
at the Michigan Center for Truck Safety office, 1131 Centennial Way in Lansing.**